Senator Kushner, Representative Porter Ranking members Arora and Sampson. My name is Terra Volpe. I am speaking regarding hb5248 *AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING.*

As a person who has an understanding violence prevention, I am aware that creating a fair pathway for people with criminal records to succeed, is an important component in allowing these individuals to successfully participate in family and community life. Allowing viable employment opportunities to people living with criminal records allows those individuals to earn a fair living where they can support themselves and their families. Therefore, I support the portion of the bill that makes changes to the licensing eligibility criteria for people living with a criminal record. This change not only helps to end practices that contribute to families and individuals living in poverty, but helps to support the success of people who want to have a fair chance, want to secure work that could increase their family's income and quality of life and want to live with dignity.

Additionally, since we currently allow the state, using its clear and fair individualized assessment standard, for hiring people with criminal records, to determine if job positions are suitable for these individual, allowing private business owners to make those same determinations for their own businesses makes sense. It's only fair and reasonable to allow and trust private business owners, to make to make these same determinations that the state adheres to, for themselves as to who they can hire.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to support the portion of in HB5248 that makes changes to licensing practices, and I ask that changes be made to the bill that would allow business owners to make determinations about those they can hire, using the same criteria the state uses.

Terra Volpe

CT Resident